Act 13
Substitution

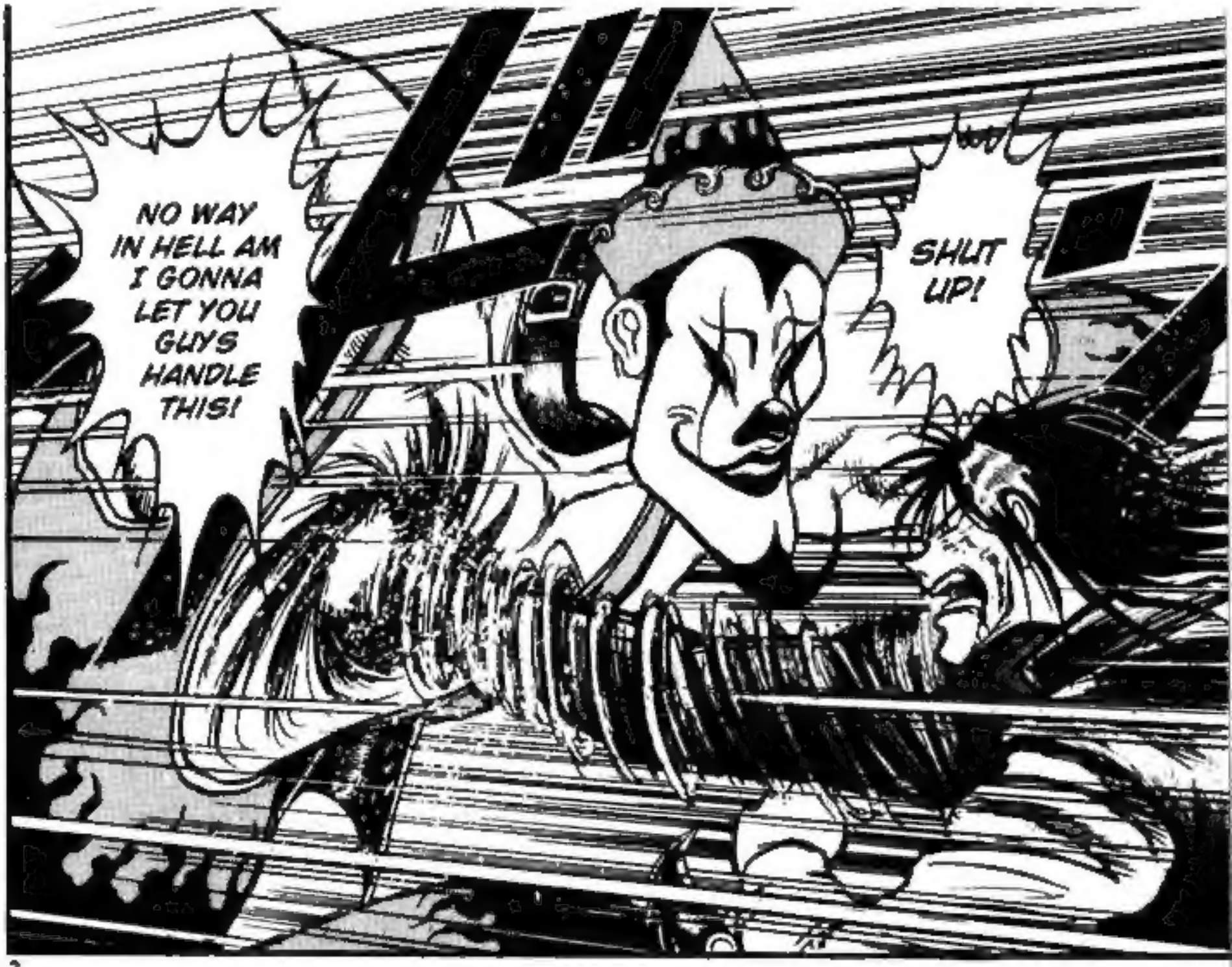
hah

hah

hah

I OUGHT TO BE UP NEXT!

STOP IT, ALREADY! THIS IS YOUR THIRD FIGHT IN A ROW!


NO WAY IN HELL AM I GONNA LET YOU GUYS HANDLE THIS!
SHUT UP!

2

MY KI CAN'T PENETRATE HIS BODY!

KEH... IT'S NO USE, HUMAN!

HIS WHOLE BODY IS RUBBER ...?! DAMN ...!

OKAY, LUCILLE, I GET THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL SHIROGANE ...

WHO BETRAYED YOU GUYS AND IS CURRENTLY SIDING WITH THE ALTOMATA ...

DDDP

JUST TWO OR THREE DROPS IS NOT ENOUGH TO TURN YOU INTO A FULL SHIROGANE, MING-XIA.

YOU *KNOW* THAT I DON'T WANT TO BECOME IMMORTAL BY DRINKING SHIROGANE BLOOD!

BUT I'M STILL WAITING ON THE REASON YOU MADE ME DRINK YOUR BLOOD JUST NOW!

3

IT'S DIS-GUS-TING!

DIDN'T I SAY THAT AS MY FATHER'S DAUGHTER, I DON'T EVER WANT TO RELY ON STRENGTH FROM SOME WEIRD MEDICINE I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT?!

DIDN'T I SAY THAT I WANT TO DEFEAT THE DOLLS AS A HUMAN BEING?!

THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE!

YOU CANNOT PURCHASE ANYTHING FROM A STORE... WITHOUT PAYING SOMETHING IN EX-CHANGE.

HUH ?

MISS MING-XIA...

EVEN THOUGH NONE OF US WISHED TO DRINK SOMETHING THAT WOULD MAKE US IMMORTAL ...

WE SHIROGANE HAVE DRUNK THE AQUA VITAE AND BECOME IMMORTAL IN ORDER THAT WE MAY CARRY OUT OUR REVENGE ON THE DOLLS.

!

... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WANTED TO LIVE OUR OWN ORDINARY LIVES, FULL OF ORDINARY HAPPINESS...

EVEN THOUGH WE ALL ...

4

WHAT IS THE PRICE THAT *YOU* ARE PAYING FOR THIS FIGHT?

FATIMA, JUST WHAT ARE YOU...

NO CHOICE BUT TO PAY A HIGH PRICE.

WE COULD NOT FORGIVE THE AUTOMATA FOR DESTROYING THAT HAPPINESS, AND SO WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BECOME SHIROGANE ...

IN THE SHOP CALLED "LIFE" ...

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, YOU MUST PAY SOMETHING TO GET SOMETHING.

...!

MISS MING-XIA...

SACRIFICING OUR HUMANITY AND TURNING OUR BACKS ON A NORMAL LIFE...

WAS THE VERY FIRST PAYMENT THAT WE SHIROGANE MADE.

BUT IF YOU HAD STAYED AS YOU WERE IN THIS TENT FULL OF ZONAPHA PATHOGENS, YOU WOULD SOON HAVE BECOME ILL.

YOU SAID THAT YOU DID NOT NEED THE POWER OF IMMORTALITY FROM MADAME'S BLOOD.

BUT ...

MISS MING-XIA, YOU SAID THAT YOU WANTED TO GET YOUR REVENGE AS A HUMAN.

IF THAT HAD HAPPENED, YOU WOULD NO LONGER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CARRY OUT YOUR REVENGE.

THAT YOU CAN FIGHT ALONG-SIDE MR. NARUMI, IN THE SAME RING AS THE SHIROGANE ?!

TO MAKE THAT SMALL A PAY-MENT, DO YOU REALLY THINK ...

IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING ...

I'M SORRY, LUCILLE. IT WAS KINDA GROSS, BUT... THANK Y—

.....

I... I GET IT, FATIMA.

I... WAS TRYING TO FIGHT THESE RIDICULOUS OPPONENTS... WITHOUT REALLY COMMITTING MYSELF.

...ONE OF THE COINS I PAID LONG AGO...

WAS VERY MUCH LIKE YOU ...

NO ...

IT'S NOTHING. FORGET ABOUT IT.

SLAP

LUCILLE... WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...?

YEE-OWCH!

HMPH... JUST IMAGINE IF ONE OF THE SHIROGANE'S REPRESENTATIVES CAME DOWN WITH ZONAPHA SYNDROME.

THAT WOULD HAVE GIVEN THE DOLLS QUITE A LAUGH.

AND AS FOR YOU, FATIMA... THAT'S ENOUGH SERMONIZING.

PLEASE EXCUSE ME, MADAME.

UM, HELLO ?!

HYA HYA HYA HYA ...

DO BE QUIET! IT'S HIGH TIME WE WERE GETTING BACK TO THE RING.

THEY WERE LIKE YOU... YES, AND I WAS, AS WELL...

GETTING ANGRY, CRYING... BEING LOUD.

IT REMINDS ME OF THE OLD DAYS...

WHAT FUN THESE TWO ARE.

WE WERE LIKE YOU ...

LIFE WAS HARD, BUT...

BEFORE WE BECAME SHIROGANE ...

PER-HAPS ...

LUCILLE, EVEN A SHIROGANE MUST FIND IT AMUSING TO HAVE YOUNG FOLK LIKE THIS AROUND.

HUH? WHAT?

AND YOU ARE MING-XIA? YOU HAVE FINE EYES AS WELL. THEY SHOW A STRAIGHT AND HONEST PATH.

O-OH, MY.

YOUR NAME WAS FATIMA, WAS IT? YOU HAVE FINE EYES. I SEE THE LIGHT OF LOVE DANCING THERE.

IN ORDER TO MAKE THE DOLL FRANCINE LAUGH.
THEY ONLY JOKE AND PLAY ...
THE AUTOMATA SELDOM LAUGH.

BELIEVING THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE FRANCINE.
THEY HAVE GONE ON DOING THE SAME THINGS FOR 200 YEARS ...
THOUGH THEY THEMSELVES DO NOT HAVE HEARTS THAT MOVE ...

YOU STILL ...
HAVE HEARTS THAT MOVE.

BUT, LUCILLE... THE DOLLS DO HAVE ONE SMALL DIFFERENCE ...
FROM YOU SHIRO-GANE.
THAT I HAVE BECOME JUST THE SAME AS THEM.
I HAVE BEEN AMONG SUCH BEINGS FOR SO LONG ...

IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO LEAVE HERE, ALMENDRA, BEFORE MIDNIGHT TOMORROW.

OH, YES, THAT'S RIGHT. MY REAL REASON FOR COMING WAS TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
...I WONDER IF THAT IS SO.

TO AN OLD FRIEND AND COMRADE-IN-ARMS FROM LONG AGO...

PERHAPS... THAT IS ALL I CAN SAY. CONSIDER IT A FAREWELL ...

... SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN, IS IT?

THE CONCLUSION OF THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE SHIROGANE AND THE ALITOMATA.

I WILL STAY RIGHT HERE... AND SEE WITH MY OWN EYES ...

GATHERING MY BELONGINGS WOULD BE TOO TIRESOME ...

THANK YOU... BUT I HAVE GROWN TOO OLD.

WAIT.

...THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT YOU WOULD SAY.

10

YOU AND THE OTHERS CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO LEAVE, CAN YOU ...?

LU-CILLE ...

AS THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COME TELL ME SOMETHING IMPOR-TANT.

THIS TIME IT'S MY TURN.

HOWEVER... MY FORTUNE-TELLING IS ALWAYS ACCURATE.

ONE MIGHT SAY THIS IS UN-AVOIDABLE.

...AND THE SAME GOES FOR US.

YES ...

IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT.

"EVERY-ONE IS GOING TO DIE."

"TO-MOR-ROW ...

FARE-WELL, LUCILLE.

.....

IT PROB-ABLY MEANS YOU AUTO-MATA.

...BY "EVERY-ONE"...

YVONNE.

MAY YOU STAY IN GOOD HEALTH, ALMENDRA ...OR, RATHER ...

YES ...

YOU... CANNOT WIN.

LUCILLE ...

IT WAS ARROGANT OF ME TO SAY THAT, WHEN YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO FIGHT WITH THE SAME FLESH AND BLOOD AS YOUR LATE FATHER.

NO, DO NOT LET IT TROUBLE YOU.

FATIMA, I'M SORRY. I...

IF MY KI WON'T PENE-TRATE YOU ...!

RIGHT... MR. NARUMI IS THE CURRENT FIGHTER.

HOW IS THE BATTLE GOING?

THEN TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE!

GGH ...

GAH ...

13

HMM, I WONDER IF MING-HAI'S HOLDING UP OKAY ...?

HERE WE ARE.

14

HAH

HAH

HAH

NEXT ...!

I DON'T FEEL LIKE SWIT-CHIN'!

SHUT UP!

THAT'S RIGHT! COME BACK HERE! SWITCH WITH ONE OF US!

NARUMI, IT'S IM-POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO CONTINUE!

WHY, YOU ASK? BECAUSE THE NEXT OPPONENTS YOU FIGHT WILL BE THE ACROBAT BROTHERS!

HMM...

YOUR DETERMINATION IS ADMIRABLE. .. BUT, IN MY HUMBLE OPINION, IT WOULD BE BEST TO CALL IN A PARTNER ...

FOR THE NEXT FIGHT.

HUH ?!

IT'LL BE LIKE WE'RE CHEATING, RIIIGHT?

SO IF YOU DON'T CALL SOMEONE ELSE IN...!

FUUU... WE FIGHT AS A TWOFER, AFTER AAAALL...

KEH! I'M GOING IN THERE ANYWAY!

WHAT IS HE DOING?! WHY IS HE BEING SO STUBBORN?!

NO... I'M FINE LIKE THIS.

I DON'T NEED... ANYONE ELSE...

OH, COME ON, NOW!

BUT, PLEASE, REST DURING THIS NEXT FIGHT.
WE ALL KNOW VERY WELL THAT YOU HAVE THE HEART OF A WARRIOR, MR. NARUMI.

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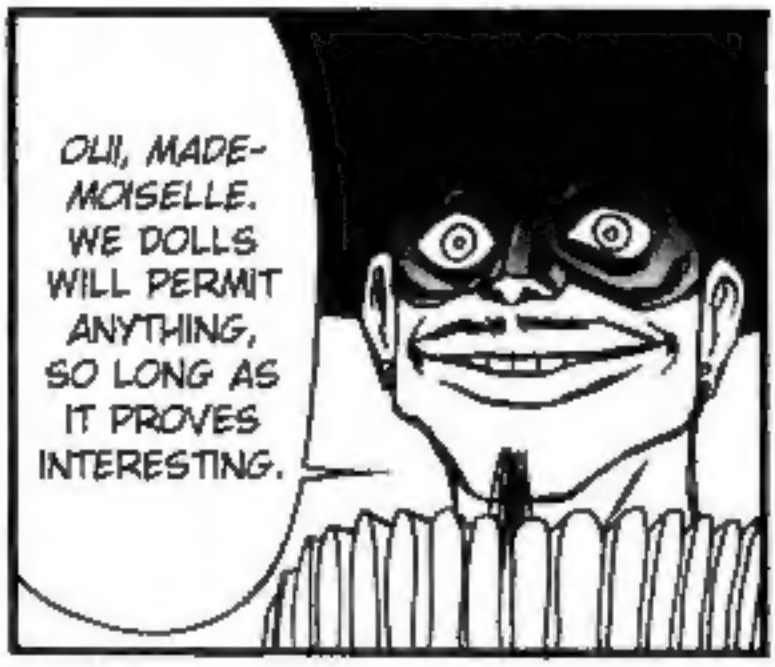
HEY, HOLD ON! WHAT ARE YOU TWO...?!


OUI, MADEMOISELLE. WE DOLLS WILL PERMIT ANYTHING, SO LONG AS IT PROVES INTERESTING.

HEY! YOUR NAME'S DOTTORE, RIGHT?
IT'S OKAY IF WE CHANGE UP OUR MEMBERS A LITTLE BIT, RIGHT?

THEN ... YOU MEAN ...?

AND YOU GUYS, YOU DON'T WANNA FIGHT WITH SOME GROSS, SWEATY MAN, DO YOU?

WILL BE THE TWO OF US!

WE ARE SAYING THAT YOUR NEXT OPPO-NENTS ...

AND FATI-MA!

MING-XIA ...

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed. Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.